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Ithaca Feb 26. 1869

Miss Lucy M Washburn

Dear Miss -

Your favor of the 23^d is at hand making an appeal in behalf of yourself for admission to the Cornell University.

You seem to have anticipated the reasons why you could not be admitted next fall, "the want of suitable accommodations" this you think could be obviated by your boarding with your Uncle.

If the question of where girls should board was the only one we could master that, but when and to whom shall they write and attend to other educational duties is the question. We have now 400 boys here, and our room so crowded that we an

found to all sorts of expedients to make room for them, we are compelled to use our library rooms for recitation, and make various shifts, that would be much aggravated if we had young women in our classes.

We also have several hundred young men pressing for admission who we cannot yet receive for want of room.

Then again we have the experiment of the labor question on hand and desire to settle that before we add to our perplexities. The labor question for young women is as important as it is for young men, but it varies in the suitability of employment, and therefore the solving of one scarcely affects the other, and it seems prudent at least to settle one thing

at a time -

If your case is one that only involves educational facilities, you can secure what you wish at Vassar College, and leave us to experiment on the boys -

If girls come here as State Students, with the certificate of the Supervisor that they were the best scholar in the public school or Academy, for their Assembly district, we should have no alternative but to admit them. The law (1865) makes no distinction as to sex, it gives the Scholarship Certificate to the best scholar -

I hope to live to see a thousand young women being educated in this University, with as many or more of their brothers, and all working smoothly and in harmony for their best good - but I don't

want the young women formed
upon us before we are prepared
to make a success of it—

Yours Respectfully

Erna Cornell